

July 17, 2006 - Rep. Slaughter Announces \$1.77 Million in Federal Funding for 5 Eastside Projects

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today joined numerous local leaders to announce funds secured in the House of Representative's FY07 appropriations bills for five important projects on the Eastside. The initiatives, ranging from infrastructure improvement to arts education, will help spur a variety of community and economic revitalization efforts in the area.

"I worked hard to secure this funding because I believe that we are turning the corner here on the Eastside," Rep. Slaughter said. "The exciting initiatives this money supports will help deliver a future defined by new economic growth and new jobs, reconstructed infrastructure and rebuilt housing, and the enrichment of the lives of our citizens. It is a future they want, and a future they deserve."

At the event, the Congresswoman was joined by: Rev. Michael Chapman, President of St. John Fruit Belt Dev. Corp.; Amy Schmitt, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus; Marlies Wesolowski, Executive Director, Matt Urban Center; Dr. Zulkharnain, Masjid Zakariya Mosque; Celeste Lawson, Arts Council in Buffalo & Erie County; and Herbert Bellamy Jr., President of 1490 Enterprises Senior Center

DETAILED SUMMARY OF SECURED FUNDING:

- \$100,000 for 1490 Enterprises Senior Center, Buffalo, NY

This funding will enable 1490 Enterprises to promote the importance of physical activity and nutrition in improving the quality of life for local seniors. 1490 Enterprises' plans to initiate a program that combine fitness and instructional programs, such as aerobics and physical fitness classes, specifically tailored to the elderly population. The program will also provide nutrition services to promote healthy diets and reduce obesity among older residents in the community. This will not only reduce obesity, but will also reduce other negative health conditions currently impacting area seniors, including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and malnutrition.

- \$900,000 for the enhancement of the Fruit Belt Corridor, Buffalo, NY.

This project is part of a large the Fruit Belt Redevelopment Plan, that is designed to spur economic growth in the region. This funding will be used for roadway, streetscape, pedestrian access, and other infrastructure improvements necessary for the development of the Fruit Belt neighborhood in Buffalo. The project will include streets, sidewalks, curbs, street lights, and utility upgrades.

- \$200,000 for the rehabilitation of the exterior of the Group Ministries community services building, Buffalo, NY.

The building at 1323 - 1337 Jefferson Street was constructed in the early 1900s. It is structurally sound and presently houses GROUP Ministries, Inc., a multifaceted community based organization that offers services to substance abusers and persons afflicted with/at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. The exterior of the building still retains its original features, which have deteriorated with time. The entire building has been a work in progress for the past few years, with most of the emphasis on the rehab of the interior of the building. This funding will be used to rehabilitate the exterior of the building, and will include the architectural design, replacement of doors and windows, and other façade improvements.

- \$100,000 for the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County for arts-in-education programming.

The Arts Council in Buffalo & Erie County will use this funding to help 42 arts organizations in Erie County that have lost all of their public support from local government to sustain their arts-in-education programs. This project will assist all schools in Erie and Niagara County, grades K-12, public, private, parochial and charter to have arts programming in the classroom. [Dept. of Education- FIE]

- \$472,000 for the demolition and redevelopment of properties in the Broadway-Fillmore Corridor, Buffalo New York.

The Broadway-Fillmore Corridor Revitalization Project will provide for the demolition of approximately 40-50 abandoned buildings in Buffalo's Eastside. Broadway Fillmore in the Eastside of Buffalo, NY is the poorest neighborhood in the city. The presence of numerous abandoned housing sites in the community has reduced overall property values, and severely limited economic growth. Sites for new housing are needed. Demolition-worthy properties need to be torn down and made available for development. This project is part of the City's larger economic redevelopment plan for Buffalo's Eastside, and will provide for the demolition of those properties. The demolition of these abandoned buildings will help facilitate the economic redevelopment of the community and allow for the construction of new housing. The City of Buffalo will be the recipient of the funding.

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